

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 RSR-01 STR-08 SSO-00 INRE-00

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O 241430 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6476

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0814

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, HA

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR U. S. INVESTORS IMPROVED

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0807

1. COMMERCE SECRETARY SERGE FOURCAND TOOK ME ASIDE AT RECEPTION BY DEPARTING IMF REPRESENTATIVE MAY 23 TO TELL ME HE HAD GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS OF U. S. INVESTORS IN HAITI. HE SAID GOH HAD SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U. S. INVESTORS OF RUMORS CITED IN OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION (PORT- AU- PRINCE 725). ECHOING CHALMERS (PORT AU PRINCE 807) HE SAID HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT THE CURRENT AMERICAN INVESTORS' PROBLEMS WOULD BE WORKED OUT. HE ADDED, FURTHER FOLLOWING THE CHALMERS LINE, THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE IN EXECUTION OF A DIRECTIVE OF PRESIDENT JEAN- CLAUDE DUVALIER, WHO WANTED BOTH TO PRESERVE THE " NEW IMAGE" OF HAITI AND TO ENCOURAGE U. S. INVESTMENT.

2. FOURCAND SAID THAT HE COULD ALSO ASSURE ME THAT THERE WOULD BE NO " PAYMENTS" OF THE KIND THAT HAD EARLIER BEEN MADE IN SOME OF THESE CASES. HE REMARKED THAT THE PRESENT PROBLEMS HAD RESULTED FROM FAULTS ON BOTH SIDES: THE GOH SIDE AND THE U. S. INVESTMENT SIDE.

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3. HE SAID MFM THOUGHT THE I. S. JOSEPH CASE WAS THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM. HE WOULD EVEN BE WILLING TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO DISCUSS IT WITH I. S. JOSEPH, EXCEPT FOR THE WEIGHT OF HIS ANTI- INFLATION RESPONSIBILITIES IN HAITI. HE

WAS ASKING CHALMERS TO SUGGEST TO I. S. JOSEPH THAT THEY SEND THE " HIGHEST POSSIBLE" REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR COMPANY TO PORT AU PRINCE FOR A FULL DISCUSSION WITH HIM, FOURCAND. HE ASKED ME ALSO TO PASS THIS SUGGESTION TO I. S. JOSEPH THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT. DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM WOULD BE FRANK AND TOUGH. HE WOULD DEFEND HAITI' S INTERESTS BUT WOULD CARRY OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

4. IN REGARD TO DUPONT CARIBBEAN, GOH WOULD DISCUSS WITH ALL CONCERNED TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION. I UNDERSTOOD THIS TO MEAN CIRCUMVENTION OF DON PIERSON.

5. FOURCAND DID NOT MENTION HEMO- CARIBBEAN SPECIFICALLY, BUT I GOT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THIS COMPANY' S PROBLEM WAS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE TO BE SOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

6. I TOLD FOURCAND THAT THIS WAS INDEED GOOD NEWS, THAT SOLVING THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS OF THESE AMERICAN INVESTORS WOULD PREVENT DISCOURAGEMENT OF OTHERS AND THAT I WAS READY TO ASSIST HIM IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE IN THIS DIRECTION.

7. COMMENT: IT SEEMS AT THIS POINT THAT PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER HAS MADE A DECISION WHICH REFLECTS A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF COMPREHENSION OF OUR REPEATED WARNINGS ABOUT THE DANGERS ARISING FROM ARBITRARY TREATMENT OF U. S. INVESTORS. IT IS CLEAR THAT CHALMERS AND FOURCAND HAVE RECEIVED PARALLEL, IF NOT IDENTICAL, INSTRUCTIONS TO CLEAN UP THE U. S. INVESTOR MESS. IN PASSING FOURCAND' S SUGGESTION TO I. S. JOSEPH AND IN ANY DISCUSSIONS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE WITH HEMO- CARIBBEAN OR ELEMENTS OF DUPONT CARIBBEAN I BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD STRESS THAT ALTHOUGH GOH NOW SEEMS READY TO GET THESE MATTERS BACK ON THE TRACK IT IS GOING TO BARGAIN HARD FOR SOME MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

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